

Equal Rights

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By HELEN SAHLER

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NOTES OF THE WEEK

Equality For Married Teachers Demanded.

THE feminists of Germany are waging an active campaign to secure the removal of the discriminations against married women that still persist in the schools. Under the law in Germany a woman teacher automatically resigns her post upon marriage, although she may be re-employed as a substitute with reduced salary.

It is now proposed to introduce a bill in the Reichstag eliminating this discrimination and placing women teachers upon the same plane as men with respect to marriage.

Belgian Doctors Fear Competition.

MEN doctors who monopolize the medical profession in Belgium and who fear the encroachment of women upon their preserves, are claiming that two years' training is sufficient to make a nurse. The first Belgium nurses' training school, l'Ecole Saint-Camille, was founded by the Countess Van der Steen in 1907. The Edith Cavell School and the School of Stuyvenberg followed soon after. All three require three years' training and the legal status of their graduates has been provided for by royal decree.

The good doctors are worried. If a nurse knows so much about medicine, what is to prevent her from wanting to know a little more—enough more to take away the good doctors' jobs?

In response to the objection to the present policy of these schools, Countess Van der Steen replies that three years' training is necessary, not only for the technical proficiency of the candidate, but also for the formation of her moral character.

Sweden Considers Bill To Make Women Pastors.

THE latest step in the achievement of political equality between women and men in Sweden is the renewed submission of a bill to the Riksdag providing that women shall be admitted on an equal footing with men to all governmental posts, including the consular and diplomatic service, but excluding the army and navy and certain other positions, such as those of officials in prisons or in asylums for inebriates. It also provides that women may be ordained ministers of the church and installed as such in any congregation where there is at least one man serving as pastor.

It is considered likely that this bill will pass at this session.

Sweden was one of the first nations in the world to allow women in its national law-making body, and her feminists now boast of four women in the Second Chamber and one woman in the First Chamber of the Riksdag.

Vassar Girls Organize Against War.

THE students of Vassar in order to prevent war have determined to minimize misunderstandings between nations by cultivating individually and collectively an international point of view. They therefore resolve to become acquainted with ideas and individuals of other nations and races by establishing scholarships for foreign students, by reading and subscribing to foreign papers and periodicals and by corresponding with other countries.

Under the auspices of various organizations numerous scholarships for American students have been established in French universities.

SWITZERLAND, at the last election, refused to endorse a bill providing that women be made eligible to school commissions, commissions of the church and public welfare, and giving them the right to vote for these offices. The bill was defeated by referendum, the peasants voting heavily against it.

Women Organize Hospital League.

PROFESSIONAL and business women in England have taken the protection of their health into their own hands and have organized the "Professional and Business Women's Hospital League." It provides for its members skilled and free treatment in private wards in London hospitals, or under special arrangements in the provinces; thus relieving them from anxiety and expense, even when a serious operation may be necessary. The value of such a boon is incalculable, and, as the yearly subscription is only 5s., with an initial additional sixpence for a copy of the rules, even the poorest professional or business woman is able to become a member.

Germany Considers Women's Bills.

FRAU LUDER and Frau Schiffer have introduced bills in the Reichstag to regulate the work of domestic servants and to reform the divorce laws. The Domestic Service bill is most comprehensive, prescribing in detail the conditions under which such service is to be carried on.

The proposed reform of the divorce law aims at simplifying the whole question. Briefly, the new system will provide that divorce may be granted on grounds of incompatibility. Both husband and wife will be held responsible for the maintenance of the children with due regard to means and requirements.

Socialist Opposes Woman Suffrage.

M. BRUNET, Socialist leader in Belgium, is opposing the extension of the suffrage to the women of his country. He gives as his reasons the insufficient preparation of women; their lack of political maturity (since they might still be capable of electing so many provincial delegates of the clerical party that these might succeed in naming a reactionary majority in the Senate), and the necessity of defending the reforms painfully brought about by the working class.

Americans Abroad.

WE may well quote Robert Burns when we read the following excerpt from *La Francaise*:

Le Club des jeunes filles celibataires de Chicago a ouvert un concours de maris. Les candidats doivent promettre de traiter leur femme en egale, de traiter leur belle-mere comme leur propre mere, d'etre aimable a la maison, d'y passer leurs soirees, de ne pas abuser de l'alcool et du tabac, et d'observer les dix commandements.

THE Salon of women painters and sculptors which opened recently at the Grand Palais in Paris, has been acclaimed an outstanding success. Flowers and portraits predominate. The children's portraits are the most remarkable, offering as they do an opportunity for the expression of maternal sentiment. Cubism is conspicuous by its absence!

FILIPINO women may soon have the right of suffrage if they want it. A bill recently passed the Philippine Senate granting suffrage to women by referendum. The House has not yet acted in the matter.

WOMEN are demanding equal opportunities for work in the Civil Service in England, and a promise has been given that in 1924 Civil Service examinations will be thrown open to men and women alike.

NATIONAL PRESIDENT GIVES NEW IMPETUS

BALTIMORE and Wilmington feminists last week renewed inspiration in the Equal Rights campaign when Mrs. Oliver H. P. Belmont, president of the National Woman's Party, and Miss Bessie Beatty, the well-known writer, who is regarded as one of the most brilliant speakers in America, addressed meetings in these cities.

The occasion of the meeting in Baltimore was the annual convention of the Just Government League, the Maryland Branch of the National Woman's Party, which was held on May 1st, and was followed on May 2nd by a number of social events in which Mrs. Belmont and Miss Beatty participated.

The out-of-town guests were not present at the morning session of the convention which was devoted to reports of officers and committees, the election of officers and a detailed consideration of the character of the bill or bills to be introduced in behalf of Equal Rights at the next session of the legislature.

Mrs. Belmont, accompanied by Miss Clare Boothe and Miss Beatty, made their first public appearance in Baltimore at a luncheon at the Hotel Emerson. To the surprise and delight of the assembled guests Miss Alice Paul came with them. Mrs. Belmont aroused great enthusiasm when she called upon the women to take up the banner which had been laid down by the pioneers and to carry it forward to the goal of full equality. Miss Beatty, Miss Paul and a number of local women completed the program at the luncheon.

The climax of the convention came in the evening at the Maryland Casualty Building theatre when Mrs. Belmont, Miss Beatty, Miss Doetsch, Miss Maud Younger, Miss Anna McCue and Rev. Olympia Brown addressed approximately 800 representative men and women. The speaking was preceded by Sir James Barrie's Twelve-pound Look, which served as a sort of atmospherical curtain-raiser for the more matter-of-fact arguments of the speakers.

Equal Rights has a piece of news of its own as important as anything it has ever published. At the top of the next page there is a list of twenty names. The names include some of the most successful women fiction writers, journalists and publicists of the day. They are the new Editorial Board of *Equal Rights*—the new Associate Editors. All of them are women to whom equal rights is one of the paramount issues of the world today. Some of them are descended from the courageous little band of pioneers who blazed the first trails through the dense forests of injustice, out of which we are emerging.

All of them are marking out new roads down which the women of the future may tread freely and happily.

Their endorsement and support are of themselves a tremendous tribute to *Equal Rights*. Their vigor, their personality, their gifts will be reflected through the pages of issues to come.



Mrs. Belmont and Miss Clare Boothe leaving Washington for the Baltimore Convention.

The play was presented by the Vagabond Players, Mrs. Robert Hunt Walker, a member of the National Council, playing the leading part.

Mrs. Belmont aroused her hearers by her fearless indictment of the indifferent woman who leaves the world to be governed entirely by half of its thinking population, and many heads in the audience nodded understandingly when she said that our present day man made civilization was not a success, and that women were needed to rebuild the social order.

Miss Beatty presented both a spoken and an unspoken argument, creating sympathy for the cause she represented through her beauty and charm and making it fast to the National Woman's Party standard by logic, wit, and a moving appeal to the American woman to respond to the need of the women of the world who look toward her for leadership and inspiration.

Miss Anna McCue, of Philadelphia, presented a graphic picture of the position of working women on the question of Equal Rights. She made a straightforward logical exposition of conditions in industry, and an appeal that both the privileges and discriminations which keep women from full competition with men be removed.

On leaving Baltimore, Mrs. Belmont and Miss Beatty proceeded to Wilmington, where on Friday evening, May 4, they addressed a brilliant audience in the ballroom of the Dupont Hotel. Mrs. Florence Bayard Hilles and other prominent local women took part in the program.

Mrs. Belmont's visits, both to Wilmington and Baltimore, were accompanied by much favorable comment in the press, and the earnestness and success with which she plead for equal rights was reflected in the large number of memberships which spontaneously came in after the meetings. Not since the suffrage victory was won has there been on any other occasion such enthusiasm for the feminist cause as was aroused by Mrs. Belmont on her Southern tour.

NOTED WOMEN WRITERS JOIN EQUAL RIGHTS BOARD

From time to time women all over the world who look to *Equal Rights* to keep them in touch with their sister feminists will be made better acquainted with one or another of these women, and

the lines of activity with which they are carving out their niches in the hall of fame.

In subsequent issues, intimate pen pictures of these women will be published, telling of their individual careers and their contribution to the literature of the times.

These sketches will be well worth reading, for each will portray a vivid personality, as interesting as romance. Even more, each will afford an argument for the cause which she now serves. Each has made a success in her own sphere and, younger women especially, those who are hovering on the edge of the new worlds they mean to conquer, will find practical help as well as inspiration in a review of these lives.

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THE SPHERE OF WOMAN

EVER since the year one in the history of the human race, nature and the mind of man have communed about the spheres of the two sexes. In general the decision has been that the sphere itself, the whole little planet earth, was the sphere of man, and that a sort of small back yard portion of it, in close proximity to, and embracing the home, should be granted by man to woman under careful restrictions. In earlier days the home was a unit of considerable proportions; raising corn and wheat, making pottery, spinning and weaving textiles, tanning skins, preparing and preserving foods, directing the work of slaves and many other things, besides the bearing and suckling of children, entered in. Even education in its more primitive stages centered in the home. As civilization has progressed the limits of the home have synchronously become more confined, until today, except for a roof, walls, a trifle of housekeeping, the household Gods and one or more warm hearts, the home is practically depleted. It is a center for love, inspiration, comfort and rest, and a nest for small babies, but it is not any more a large and organizable work shop calling for the exercise of great technical abilities. Unless there are many young children, it is a place to work from, more than a place to work in.

Despite this patent fact of evolution, great numbers of human beings women as well as men, still adhere to the earlier definition of the spheres of the two sexes. That is, they adhere to it in theory, though not in fact, because of course if they adhered to it in practice, few business offices would function, few schools hold sessions, and no telephone exchanges respond. If every woman, should for a day, stay in the home where she is so often told she belongs, a paralysis of business, art, education, and industry in general would ensue.

Census figures themselves tell the story. In 1880, there were but 2,647,157 women gainfully employed in the United States, as compared with 8,075,000 in 1910. According to the last census 9,024,300 women are today gainfully employed in the United States, and women are engaged in all but 33 of the 678 occupations listed.

This indicates one of two things. Either the old concept of the sphere of woman does not compose with modern conditions, or else woman is defying nature with success. Now, no matter how high in our esteem woman may stand, it is an exaggeration to suppose that she could successfully defy natural law, so we are forced to take the stand that the sphere of woman is no longer to be regarded as delimited by the confines of the home.

This puts in question the age-old assumption that all of the planet outside the house belongs to man. After all, what is the sphere either of man or woman! May it not well be that corner of the universe which either he or she can cultivate and conquer, a province not marked off either by law or custom, but delimited alone by ability, industry and spiritual stamina!

INDUSTRIAL EQUALITY

IN 1919 the first International Congress of Working Women was held in Washington. Presumably, everyone concerned with the question of women in industry remembers that conference and is familiar with the discussion at the meeting, extracts of which are printed in this issue.

One point brought out in the discussion of the Congress—an interesting one in view of recent controversy upon the subject—is the fact that the National Woman's Party does not stand alone in the position which it has taken that in all legislation fixing the hours, conditions and remuneration of labor, there shall be no distinction between the sexes. At this International Congress of women in 1919 the representatives from Norway, Sweden and Czecho-Slovakia took exactly the same position as that of the Woman's Party on all phases of industrial legislation. These countries are among those where the position of women is the most advanced.

THEORY VS. PRACTISE

"TAKE Mary with you," our leading article this week, phrases in terms of experience the practical results of so-called "protective legislation" for women only. Mr. James L. O'Donnell, the writer, speaks with authority regarding the condition of women in the molders' trade, for he has been a molder himself nearly a quarter of a century, and has worked at his trade not only in the United States, but in Alaska, England, South America and various other countries. He has occupied many different offices in the molders' union, and has rendered distinguished service to his fellow-workers in a number of important strikes. His judgments are the result of practice, not theory, and as a worker he evaluates the problem accurately.

In the world of economics there is grave danger in theoretical decisions. People are always prone, as Mr. O'Donnell suggests, to believe that Utopias may be created by law, and in the enthusiasm of their good will, they define their demands in a bill without sufficiently understanding the intricacies of the problem.

There is no royal road to knowledge and only those who have actually worked with the tools of their trade speak with genuine authority as to the conditions that should obtain in shop or factory.

The National Woman's Party, composed as it is, of women in every walk of life, makes no pretense of dictating the principles or methods that should obtain in labor organizations. The workers themselves must pass decisions regarding the conditions under which they will work and the wage scale that is agreeable to them. These questions are wholly outside the province of the National Woman's Party.

But in the matter of sex discriminations, the National Woman's Party may fairly assume an attitude of dictatorship, for sex does not fix a boundary for ability, intelligence, strength, craftsmanship or even ambition. It is only upon this one point that the Party takes its stand. A line drawn on sex is an unreality in the field of industry, for the two sexes overlap and no clean cut differentiation between the male and the female exists. Some women are more intelligent than some men, some are more expert; even in the realm of physical strength, peasant women or women acrobats could put many sedentary, town-bred men to shame. So it goes. A theoretical sex line is drawn between man and woman by those who advocate protective legislation, but being based upon false premises it works injustice and hardship.

Mr. O'Donnell's comments, that "Nations pay too much when they pay too little for labor," and that "When services must be sold on the auction block of desperation, neither morality nor civilization profits," are pregnant with wisdom. These facts apply equally to both men and women workers, and when they are recognized, and only then, will conditions in industry be suitable either for men or women.

Economic theory is utterly valueless unless in practice it reflects itself in such prosaic details as getting a job, holding it under decent conditions, and receiving sufficient remuneration.

"Get-rich-quick schemes" are and always have been as plentiful as dead leaves in autumn, but except as fertilizer for the seeds of truth and justice they are equally useless.

E. H. H.

TAKE MARY WITH YOU

By JAMES L. O'DONNELL

THE opinion of the Supreme Court of the United States, handed down April 9th holding unconstitutional the District of Columbia's minimum wage law for women, has aroused a storm of protest from the ranks of organized labor, accompanied by a demand for the curbing of the power of the Supreme Court. The call for a National Conference to be held in Washington for the purpose of finding ways and means to apply the curb, is receiving the endorsement of the labor press generally.

The writer during twenty years' membership in organized labor, has often been puzzled by some of the Supreme Court's opinions, but must honestly confess himself equally mystified in trying to find what way curbing the court will help the woman. It goes without saying that the generally accepted idea in labor circles has been that special protective legislation for women different from the protective legislation for men, is necessary. There is, however, an increasing number of laborites, men and women, who question the wisdom of these laws, and feel that women should enjoy equal opportunities, equal rights, and assume equal responsibilities, and that women workers and the labor movement in general will then benefit to a greater degree than is possible under any present form of special protection for women, which does not apply to men.

The idea that woman is not man's equal is a fallacy accepted by many women friends of the workers, who through their various organizations and leagues urge the necessity of special protective laws for women. It seems that woman is regarded as an invalid, who requires special care and must be hedged around with so-called protection, which in reality is nothing but restriction, making it not less but more difficult for her to work and live.

Whether or not we like the idea, under our present-day system women are forced to compete with men. Every year sees women entering new fields of industry and business. Every time you say Mary can only work under certain conditions and for stated wages, John gets the job and Mary hits the streets.

THAT is believed by some so-called leaders of labor to be a good thing. In a conference on this all important subject held last year when the men advocates of Equal Rights told of Mary landing in the gutter, the answer of the opposition voiced through the presiding officer was "Hell, that's what we want. Let women stay at home where they belong. There are too many of them out grabbing jobs now."

There are no doubt many fine men in the labor movement, who, without weighing the question, believe that protective legislation for women is needed. Also there are altruistic leaders who advocate protection when the real thought is to run Mary out of the game. Some organizations are more honest in their stand on the question, and openly exclude women from the union.

The Johns Hopkins University Studies in Historical and Political Science under the direction of the Departments of History, Political Economy and Political Science, in 1921 published a study of the International Molders' Union of North America, by Frank L. Stockton, Ph. D., professor of economics, University of South Dakota. On pages 61-63 we find the following:

"*Exclusion of women*—The Molders' Union has steadfastly frowned upon the employment of women in or about the foundry. It has contended that heavy, dangerous, grimy and dusty work is physically injurious to women and incompatible with their *finer nature*, and that the lower labor standards generally acceptable to women constitute a menace to the standards obtained by men."

In spite of the union's opposition, women have entered the trade, especially through the core room. As early as 1884 women core-makers and foundry employes were working in Detroit. At first the experiment with women core-makers was not a success, but before long many foundrymen favored female help, because it was believed trained women could make better cores than men where a nice and careful adjustment was required, and because women did not take to unionism. No particular attention was

given by the molders to the *woman question* till after amalgamation with the core-makers in 1903. The number of women in the foundries was comparatively small prior to that time. (a) Gradually, however, the number of women core-makers increased as large industry found it profitable to utilize them.

Instead of being a mere industrial curiosity, the female foundry employe now became an industrial problem. At the 1907 convention the seriousness of the situation was fully recognized. Thus far no provision covering female labor had been incorporated into the rules of the union, although the employment of both women and children had always been discouraged. It was now decided to bend every effort to eliminate female labor from the foundry and to this end it was voted to fine any member, honorary or active, who gave instruction to "female help in the foundry at any branch of the trade." (b) This fine was not to exceed fifty dollars. For a second offense the offending member was to be expelled.

During the next few years several strikes were called against the employment of women core-makers. In spite of these rules women core-makers continued to increase in non-union foundries. In the malleable iron trade it was reported in 1912 that 1,039 women were engaged at work in ninety shops. In order to reach establishments where labor organization would prove very difficult, the molders endeavored to secure restrictive legislation. In 1910 a bill to prohibit the employment of women core-makers was introduced in the New York Legislature, but failed to pass. At the next session the bill was reintroduced, and the International sent a lobbyist to work for its passage.

IN 1912 the preliminary report of the Factory Investigating Commission of New York appeared, recommending that female labor in foundries be prohibited. Largely as a result of the commission's report, the Legislature in 1913 passed a bill which prohibited the employment of women in core rooms containing core ovens, and authorized the State Industrial Board to adopt regulations covering the size and weight of cores which might be made by women.

In formulating its rules the Board ordered that women should not be allowed to handle cores having a temperature of over 110 degrees Fahrenheit, or to work at tasks where the combined weight of the core, core-box and plate exceeded twenty-five pounds. (c) The result of this law was practically to exclude women from the foundry. Soon after the enactment of the New York legislation, Ohio and Pennsylvania passed bills making fifteen pounds the maximum combined weight of core-box, core and plate which women were permitted to handle. The passage of restrictive legislation in all three states soon had "a marked effect on some of the trust foundries," where, according to reliable witnesses, women had worked on cores, "the combined weight of which would be over 150 pounds, requiring three or four women to roll them over." (d) In Massachusetts and New Jersey "female core-makers' bills" were introduced, but failed of adoption. At both the 1912 and 1917 conventions, resolutions were offered to admit women core-makers on the ground that they were "here to stay." The delegates, however, refused to alter the policy of the union.

IN 1912 women core-makers in Boston went on strike. Local Union No. 106 of that city asked the executive board to give the strike financial support, but the board refused to lend its recognition or encouragement to the movement. (e)

In a preface to his survey Professor Stockton expresses his gratitude to the national officers of the Molders' Union for helpful suggestions, interest, encouragement and ready assistance.

The case of the Molders' Union is cited not in condemnation of the

a—In 1891 only forty-six women were working at molding, including core-making.

b—Proceedings, 1907. P. 93, 116, 137, 169, 180.

c—J. O. O'Leary, "New York State Foundry Rules Recently Adopted," in *International Molders' Journal*, July, 1915, P. 501.

d—Letter to the writer from Editor John P. Lorey.

e—*International Molders' Journal*, January, 1913, p. 30. The census for 1910 gave the women employed in all the foundries as 1,298.

organization which was after all only trying to carry out a definite policy. The object in mentioning it is to show that this restrictive legislation, "did produce marked effect," which means that it helped the organization in its effort to exclude women from the foundry.

On the face of it the legislation looks like real protection for Mary. It lightens her task, things are made easier for her. She does not have to labor so hard. She can do so only under the most favorable conditions. Surely now Mary is happy. She need worry no more. She should be thankful to those who served her. Now this is just the condition which the advocates of special protective legislation for women want. They want Mary to be happy and in a gracious mood.

But wait a minute, my philanthropic friends, you, who at all times claim the field, you who would make cruel industry take its iron heel from poor Mary's neck, you who slam the door in the faces of the earnest and characterize advocates of *equal rights* as an aggregation of wild people who want to boss the world—what is happening now?

Industry tells Mary that she is no longer needed, or if she is to hold the job, she must accept reduced wages. When this is done, she becomes a potential scab who endangers the wages of all the male employes. Other things happen to Mary. Some girls have been known to quit in despair, to leave honest toil behind and having done this the necessity of making a living caused them to hit the trail that leads to destruction. Not all unemployed girls do this, but reliable statistics show that the economic phases of the question must be considered in any study of prostitution.

NATIONS pay too much when they pay too little for labor. When services must be sold on the auction block of desperation, neither morality nor civilization profits.

Organized labor states in the case cited that if the field is left open for women to compete with men then wage standards will suffer. The sensible thing to do is to organize the women and demand for them *equal pay for equal work*. After this has been done if standards still drop, then something is fundamentally wrong with industry, and all effort should be turned to changing the system to one that will remove competition and establish something more in keeping with the needs of men and women who must work to live.

Many claims are made about the work being too heavy or dangerous or otherwise injurious to Mary's finer nature. These things make no difference to the woman who under our present system of doing things, is forced to compete. She must work to live, so she takes whatever job is open just as man does, and this *finer nature* talk is wasted effort.

When we stop to consider that the last United States Census showed 9,024,300 women gainfully employed, and that women are engaged in all but 33 of the 678 occupations listed in the Census, we might just as well stop shouting, "Woman's place is in the home!" and instead demand that she be treated, not as an invalid who needs protection, but as a normal human being, not man's better half, but his other half. Mary is bursting the chains of age-long bondage and entering all fields of useful activity. She is on the job and going to stay there.

If you have a sincere desire to help women, and no doubt many people in and out of the labor movement are sincere, then consider the facts, which are that the results obtained by dictating wages, hours and conditions for women under special laws are of exceedingly doubtful value. Stop legislating Utopias for Mary because it can't be done until she enters the political and economic fields on a basis of real equality. Even then ideal conditions will not obtain until she and John learn the methods of association and co-operation.

PLACE woman squarely upon her own feet and she will provide what legislation she needs. If working conditions are as bad as stated, then men should not work either, and perhaps the advent of woman with her finer nature will tend to improve things.

What is it Mary needs? Is it liberty, or does she desire peace, security and happiness? The advocates of equal rights contend that she needs them all, but also maintain that no matter how much of the three she has she will never be really secure without an equal voice in determining her position in life. If she is going to accept gifts from man she must be prepared for uncertainty, insecurity and many bitter disappointments. In the struggle for existence man's better nature often disappears and then it is the job he wants.

In one European country at the present time over 100,000 women are being removed from industry to be replaced by men. The excuse given is that there are not enough jobs to go around, and that heads of families must be given preference. The fact that women also have dependents is consistently ignored. All of the wrongs of women cannot be placed on the indifference or injustice of man. Some women in industry assume the clinging vine attitude and will not let anyone suggest freedom. They do not want to be free. They are satisfied. Many men suffering under intolerable working conditions and starvation wages feel the same way. They

do not want to be free. What is wrong with these people is that they will accept everything they can get through the efforts of others, but assume no responsibility for doing anything to better their own condition.

Mary, please stop looking for a male or female Moses to lead you out of the wilderness. Save yourself. Don't be a shirker. Get into the battle and demand justice. The advocates of *Equal Rights* make no doubtful promises. They only suggest the way. You will have to do the thinking and acting.

John and Mary are both here and must make the best of it. There is no real difference between them. They are both things of flesh and blood, with their destinies in their own hands. They should not spend time in building up imaginary lines against each other. While one-half is weak the other half will also suffer. The time for makeshifts is past. Tackle the problem

right. Demand a square deal for each other. Nothing less is sufficient.

This article opened with a comment on the attitude of organized labor toward the Supreme Court. Well go to it. I hold no brief for that august and autocratic body. Curb the court if you wish, but at the same time remove the curb from woman.

Take Mary with you.

ANOTHER WOMAN'S ART

YOUTH, promise, freedom, a vista of all the tomorrow is in Helen Sahler's exquisite figure of girlhood, on the cover of *Equal Rights*. Miss Sahler's own horizon is a wide one. She is one of the women sculptors most interested in politics at home and abroad.

Her work is of a highly symbolic character. There is an idealistic suggestion of this even in her reliefs and portraits, but in her imaginative work this element is most evident. In "The Spirit of Revolt," "Mercury," "The Judge," "Calumny" and others it is the dominant characteristic. Miss Sahler has the gift of transforming mere characterization by injecting a quality of enduring significance.

Miss Sahler is an American, and the ground work of her artistic education was laid at home. Later she travelled extensively in Europe and the Near East. Her studio in New York overlooks Central Park.

Recently at the invitation of the Woman's City Club, she gave a one-man show in New York, exhibiting twenty-four figures and portrait reliefs. She is rapidly making a name for herself also as an etcher. She takes an active part in all the organizations prompting the welfare of the women of her art. She is recording secretary of the National Association of Women Painters and Sculptors, a member of the Board of Directors and Chairman of the Sculpture Committee of the McDowell Club of New York, and member of the Cosmopolitan Club of New York and the Lyceum Club of London.

NEWS FROM THE FIELD

AN account of the progress of the legislative campaign in Pennsylvania is given in letters from Miss Ella Riegel, State legislative chairman, to National Headquarters.

"The Harrisburg group plans to call a meeting on Thursday of this week to try to enlist the active co-operation of the active members of the Central Pennsylvania Branch as a nucleus from which to work.

"The session of the Legislature adjourned for a week without Senator Stites calling his sub-committee to report out our bill, as he was called away from Harrisburg by business. This morning Miss Mary Burnham and I called upon him in his office and he said he would call his committee on Monday afternoon and report out the bill to the General Judiciary on Tuesday morning. Senator MacDade promised me last Wednesday that he would speak to some members of the Health and Sanitation Committee, urging them to work to have his bill, No. 739, favorably reported to the Senate.

"The sub-committee met yesterday and reported favorably the bills to the General Judiciary Committee, which reported out favorably to the Senate the following:

"No. 758—Giving the sole surviving parent the right to appoint a guardian for the child.

"No. 742—Giving a married woman the right to choose her own domicile.

"No. 743 and No. 744—Making the degree of cruelty as a ground for divorce, the same for husband and wife.

"Senator Stites tells me that the General Judiciary Committee may report out more, but they had not time to consider them, as they sat only about twenty minutes.

Colorado Has New Membership Chairman.

DR. CAROLINE SPENCER, secretary of the Colorado Branch of the Woman's Party, writes to National Headquarters concerning the activities of the Colorado Branch:

"We think we are making progress in the way of organization.

"After writing you the other day, I called up Bertha Arnold Knorr to ask her to undertake to organize the students of Colorado College. She came to see me the next day. The result is that she will be State membership chairman. We are all very much pleased, for she has good ideas. She has already, since our little meeting, secured several members. She will take with her a relative of the Dean of the college when she goes to talk about the college branch and will try at once to secure membership chairmen in Denver, Pueblo, and, in fact, in every county of the State."

Michigan Plans Convention.

MRS. NINA E. ALLENDER, who has for years been known to all readers of *The Suffragist*, through her cartoons, has recently gone to Michigan to assist that branch in their organization campaign. She writes to National Headquarters:

"I arrived Wednesday morning and met Mrs. Cramer and Mrs. Whittemore. Both are charming and enthusiastic. They expressed delight at having me here—one who has traditions and knows the Party.

"I am leaving in the morning for Grand Rapids to co-operate with Mrs. Morley in working up the annual meeting and shall go on from there to Lansing and other places as the way opens. Next Thursday afternoon a meeting will be held at the home of Mrs. C. S. Mott at Flint. I met her today and she seems quite enthusiastic about the Woman's Party. The Detroit women will motor up for the occasion.

"It is planned to have an all-day convention on May 14th—a business session and election of officers in the morning, with a luncheon of several hundred guests at the Statler.

"Mrs. Whittemore will be in town tomorrow for a general meeting of the Federated Clubs, where the Woman's Party convention plans will be announced."

THE *Detroit News* of April 28 has this to say of the work of the Woman's Party in Michigan:

"Fair lady will not be daunted. Since the legislative department of the National Woman's Party discovered in its research work that Michigan women were slaves in a legal sense, the Michigan branch has been working to overcome that evil.

"First, the Equal Rights bill was introduced into the State Senate and was defeated. With but twelve days left of this session and a law that all bills must be introduced ten days before the close of the session, the Michigan branch made hay while the sun shone, and had another bill introduced which will salve their wounded feelings for the time being.

"If this bill, introduced by John Stevens, is passed, it will give a wife equal share in property jointly owned and an equal share in the rents accruing therefrom.

"Speakers who have been asked to speak at the convention Inncheon on May 14 are: Ira W. Jayne, judge of the circuit court; John V. Brennan, assistant prosecuting attorney; George P. Condon, State Senator; Mrs. George L. Grimes, Mrs. E. B. Calkins, State president of the W. C. T. U.; Mrs. A. B. Cramer, Mrs. Nina Allender, State organizer, and Mrs. Dudley Field Malone. Mrs. Emma A. Fox will act as toastmistress.

Mrs. Oliver H. P. Belmont, president of the National Woman's Party, will be in Detroit in September to speak about the Party's work among women."

To Reintroduce Bay State Bill.

THE Framingham *Evening News* of Massachusetts, in its issue of April 26, gives the following account of the meeting held at which this bill was discussed by the Massachusetts Branch of the Woman's Party:

"Miss Eleanor Doddridge Brannan of New York and Washington addressed a good audience of thoughtful women in Lower Village Hall Tuesday afternoon on the Equal Rights issue.

"Miss Olive Belches presided and outlined the aims of the National Woman's Party, then presented Miss Brannan. Although quite young, Miss Brannan gives the effect of understanding the attitude of the Party and of knowing just what she is talking about. She speaks easily and makes her points clear. She said in part:

"First, it is well to know what the National Woman's Party is now. It is not a political party. To form a new political party of women, with the aims of such a party, would be a step backward. It would emphasize a separation of interests of men and women, which the party wishes to unite.

"What the Party is, is an organization whose sole aim is to equalize the opportunities of women with those of men, so that the discriminations which work against woman may be removed.

"Many think that the adoption of the amendment giving the vote to women left nothing more to be done, and women who worked hard for that have ceased to consider the question of equality. A great deal remains to be done. While the law gives the vote to women everywhere, there are in every State still laws which work injustice and hardship to women. To change these laws is the aim of the Equal Rights movement and the only present activity of the National Woman's Party.

"The Equal Rights Bill which was lost in our Legislature recently will come up again in January. We are accustomed to think that conditions in Massachusetts need no improvement as far as women are concerned. The Equal Rights Bill has thirty-two points concerning the right of women to as unrestrained, independent living of their lives as men have. Some of these points are:

"1. Jury service for women. Women may not want it personally, but it should be required in justice to women prisoners.

"2. The right of contract between husband and wife. The old idea that 'husband and wife are one and he is the one' still holds in law in this State. If husband and wife are in business together, or if the wife is employed by the husband as clerk or in any capacity, she cannot legally demand wages nor a share in the profits.

"3. The right of the mother to share in the earnings of minor children, which now is exclusively that of the father. Incidentally, it is hoped that the children themselves may be given some share in such earnings.

"4. The right of married women to live and to carry on business in actual home or domicile where she votes and pays taxes.

"5. Equal penalty for men and women taken in disorderly houses. Under present law men taken thus are held for one day, fined and dismissed. Women are held indefinitely, brought up for trial and punished, often sent away.

"These are but a few of the discriminations against women, the result of the low estimate of women and their ability, which has existed for ages and which women, having been so educated and impressed from generation to generation, find it hard to shake off."

I. C. W. W. ON SPECIAL LABOR LAWS

At the First International Congress of Working Women, held in Washington, D. C., October 28th to November 6th, 1919, the question of special labor laws for women received considerable attention. The discussion is of interest to students of this subject because of the fight on the floor of the convention for the principle of sex equality in labor legislation by the delegates from the Scandinavian countries. The stenographic report of the convention may be read in the Library of the Department of Labor at Washington, D. C.

Dr. Sundquist, delegate from Sweden, spoke as follows to the convention on November 4th:

"While emphasizing the necessity of providing for adequate protection against child labor, the regulation of juvenile labor conditions and the introduction for men and women of an eight-hour working day, a yearly rest season, extended labor inspection, effectual measures against unemployment, equal pay for equal work, we wish to point out, in accordance with the views earlier set forth by us, and in accordance also with the program published this year by the 'Comite Feminin Francais du Travail,' that we do not approve the principle of a special protective legislation for women except in cases of maternity.

"The Swedish Social Democratic Women's Associations signatories of this statement did not endorse the Berne conference of 1906 on the ground that, in our opinion, legislation of this kind tends to restrain the scope of activity for women, precluding them from many suitable and remunerative occupations. To continue along the lines of special legislation for women previously entered upon, would be bad policy, especially at the present when the establishing of general efficient protective legislation providing also for men seems to be imminent.

"The necessity of providing economic support for mothers and children, has unfortunately not received sufficient consideration. An efficient maternity benefit should be established for all women.

"We voice the hope that the Congress will see to it that the rights of women as citizens and individuals are vindicated and that substantial assistance be afforded women in the exercise of their maternal duties.

Madame Stychova, delegate from Czecho-Slovakia, addressed the convention the same day as follows:

"A special Congress was called on the employment of women in printing trades and the counsel of the women employed thus was taken." It was stated repeatedly by the women who had been employed as typesetters and who had lost their occupations that they in no wise felt any harmful consequences physically of their calling when employed in shops that were well ventilated, clean and where provided short working hours and adequate wages. According to the findings of one of the leading Czech physicians, Dr. Honzakova, work in printing shops that are unsanitary in appointment is just as harmful to men as to women. It is our opinion that *only women in pregnancy should be excluded from some callings.* * * *

The next day Mrs. Schwartz, delegate from the United States, presented a resolution on prohibition of night work, from the Resolution Committee of the convention, which read:

"Be it resolved that an International Convention of the League of Nations prohibits night work for *men and women* except in industries which are continuous by reason of public necessity."

Mrs. Raymond Robins, of the United States, who presided at the convention, then said:

"I am going to ask Mrs. Schwartz to mention the countries that specify night work should be prohibited for *men as well as women.* * * * It is interesting to know that a number of countries are acting for *both men and women* to make the prohibition of night work effective as far as possible."

Mrs. Schwartz replied that she had a resolution from Sweden and Norway asking that "night work be prohibited for *men and women* except in cases where it is absolutely indispensable, and another from Czecho-Slovakia.

MADAM KJERLSBERG, delegate from Norway, said:

"In Norway we have no special laws that forbid women except those who are pregnant, to work during the night. We have not since 1891 and the laws have been revised in 1909 and 1915 and it was before the Parliament to put in the special prohibition laws for women. I cannot tell how it will go next time * * * but I know the opinion of the women of Norway after we have been enfranchised * * * I want to have night work forbidden for *men, women and little ones.*"

Later in the discussion the following resolution, introduced by Dr. Sundquist, of Sweden, was read to the convention:

"On behalf of the Swedish Social Democratic Women Workers.

"Night work. Whereas women need as much opportunities as possible in the labor market, and

"Whereas night work ought to be prohibited for *men and women* except in such cases where it is absolutely indispensable, and

"Whereas the Berne Convention of 1906 was held at a time when women were not enfranchised and could have no voice in legislation.

"Resolved that there should be no international special protective laws for women except in case of pregnancy and nursing of infants."

One of the resolutions passed by the convention asked the First International Conference of Labor of the League of Nations to establish for all workers a maximum eight-hour day and a forty-four hour week.

TWO MILLION DOLLAR FUND

TREASURER'S REPORT, Edith Ainge, Treasurer, National Woman's Party, Capitol Hill, Washington, D. C. Auditors: American Audit Company.

Receipts of National Headquarters, December 7, 1912, to April 29, 1923, \$1,098,754.52.

Contributions, membership receipts and other receipts, April 29, 1923, to May 5, 1923:

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